



# THE GULL



## BEING THERE WITH THE OWLS

Join naturalist Bob Stewart at our May 11th meeting in San Francisco for a look at the habits of owl species found in the Bay Area. Bob will share his slides and his personal experiences with these nocturnal predators. Writes Bob, "stalking these mysterious animals of the night can be demanding of all your senses and knowledge. There is always the risk that you will not encounter even the calls. But if you like the process of going out into the moonlight and are open to the unexpected, owling can be addictive. Personal experiences with owls are always unforgettable and much to be preferred to reading about them."

Bob is a naturalist with the Marin County Department of Parks and has led over 50 owling outings in Marin County over the past ten years. He has also worked Point Reyes Bird Observatory and as a biology teacher. He invites you to share his owling experiences beginning at **7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 11** at the Josephine Randall museum. It is at **199 Museum Way, San Francisco**.

—JOELLA BUFFA

## FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

**Sunday, May 7**—Point Reyes Seashore

**Sunday, May 7**—Wildcat Canyon Regional Park.

**Wednesday, May 10**—Mini-trip to Briones Regional Park.

**Saturday, May 13**—"Vintage Birds"

For details on the above see *The GULL* for April.

**Saturday, May 20**—Mt. St. Helena. Meet at 8 a.m. at the junction of Ida Clayton Rd. and Hwy. 128, 6.3 miles north of Calistoga. Roadside birding will cover five different habitats, where birds are more often heard than seen. Warblers, Sage Sparrows, Pileated Woodpeckers and Lazuli Buntings will be among the birds we will look and listen for. Bring lunch and liquids. Carpool if at all possible because parking is very limited and we must caravan to bird the roadside. Call Russ Wilson (524-2399) if you plan to go on this trip. Leader: Dick Johnson (530-7781) (✓).

**Sunday, May 21**—Beginners Trip to Mountain Lake, San Francisco. Meet at the parking lot at the Army Defense Language School (old Public Health hospital) just north of Lake St. on 15th Ave., at 8 a.m. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Leader: Janet Murphy (751-0197).

**Friday-Sunday, June 2-4—Birding** by Ear in Yosemite. The lower and middle elevations of Yosemite National Park are alive with singing birds in early June. A variety of habitats support a rich diversity of birdlife, typically including seven flycatchers (four Empidonax) three vireos, seven warblers, and many other species in full song and breeding plumage. Meet at the Big Oak flat entrance on Friday, June 2 at 3 p.m., and Saturday, June 3 at 7 a.m. (if you arrive later Saturday morning, meet the group in Hogdon Meadow behind the Hogdon Meadow Group Campsites.) The meeting place is the large parking lot 100 yards inside the park entrance on Hwy. 120.

Nearby campgrounds include Hogdon Meadow (res. required) and Crane Flat in the Park, Carlon and Middle Fork (primitive Forest Service) on the road to Hetch Hetchy, and Sweetwater on Hwy. 120. Lodging on Hwy. 120 includes Yosemite Gatehouse (209/379-2260), Evergreen Lodge (209/379-2606), Lee's Middle Fork (209/962-7408), and Buck Meadows Lodge (209/962-6366). The meeting place is 30 miles from Yosemite Valley.

Bring warm clothes, raingear, rubber boots (wet meadows), be prepared to pack a lunch and walk about six miles. Leader: Dave Cornman (825-2106) \$ (✓).

**Friday-Sunday, June 2-4—Eagle Lake—Lassen Co.** Meet at 8 a.m. at Gallatin Beach. Directions: go north on I-5 to Orland turn off, go east on Hwy. 32 through Chico to junction (39 miles) with Hwy. 36 at which turn right through Chester and 3 miles after junc-

tion with Hwy. 44 (or 2½ miles west of Susanville) turn left on Eagle Lake Rd. (A1) to Gallatin Rd., turn right to Gallatin Beach. There is good camping, a group campground, or motels in Susanville. If interested in group camping, phone leader to arrange. Enroute, Elam Campground is a good place to stop. Be prepared for rainy, chilly weather. Fishing is good. Expect to see Bald Eagles, Osprey, White-headed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, Black Terns, Mountain Bluebirds. Call leader for details at 530-2427 (home) or 433-1700 (office). Leader: Joan Zawaski (✓).

**Wednesday, June 14—Mini-trip to Redwood Regional Park.** Meet at the park at 9:30 a.m. Take the Warren Freeway, turn left onto Redwood Rd. and proceed about three miles to Redwood Gate, southern entrance to the park. Leave the cars at the small parking lot just inside parking lot on left. Bring lunch. We should see Black-headed Grosbeak, Swainson's Thrush, Northern Oriole, Solitary, Hutton's and Warbling Vireos. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

**Sunday, June 16—Farallon Trip,** see p. 73 for details.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks and other sites that require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader, or need information regarding a trip, or can take a passenger on a trip, call Russ Wilson (524-2399).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE



## OBSERVATIONS

### February 1 through March 26

Bird watchers, during a cold February and a wet March, found mostly cold and wet wintering ducks, raptors, and interesting gulls. But San Francisco, and primarily Golden Gate Park, provided some interesting winter land birding. Returning local nesters and migrants enlivened the last part of March.

### News from the Farallones

Tufted Puffins returned on March 16, a week earlier than last year's record early date! The season's first Cassin's Auklet egg appeared March 6, and other species were active early, probably related to colder than average water temperatures and the relatively high rate of upwelling earlier in the winter. Interesting Island visitors included a Bald Eagle (seen feeding on a freshly dead Elephant Seal pup), a wintering Least Sandpiper, and two Short-eared Owls to Jan. 8 (they usually depart by mid-November; these are the first to winter). The Brown Thrasher, banded in October, stayed for the winter, a first wintering record for SE Farallon. This information is for the period December 1 through March 25. (Thanks to Point Reyes Bird Observatory for all SE Farallon Island information.)

### Waterbirds

Single Northern Fulmars were found on a Whale Center trip out of Half Moon Bay March 4 (MLE), and from a boat off the Sonoma Coast March 11 (DN). Four to six Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen on a Monterey pelagic trip Feb. 26 (CSp, BHi), and another was found on a Whale Center trip out of Half Moon Bay March 11 (MLE). A Flesh-footed Shearwater was thirty miles out from Half Moon Bay Feb. 2

(BS, fide RSTh, PJM). Sooty Shearwater numbers began to build through February, with the first big flight seen from SE Farallon March 23. Small numbers of Short-tailed Shearwaters were found on pelagic trips during the period, the largest number being seven seen about thirty miles out from Half Moon Bay Feb. 2 (BS, fide, RSTh, PJM).

In addition to the Cattle Egret still hanging about Lake Merritt, Oakland at least to Feb. 18 (JM), another was spotted off of Highway 92 west of Half Moon Bay Feb. 19 (MLE).

Thirteen Brant counted on a Whale Center trip out of Half Moon Bay March 4 (MLE) signalled the beginning of this species' migration along our coast, which generally occurs from February to June. The "Common" Green-winged Teal remained at Palo Alto Baylands at least through Feb. 6 (JM, AWi), and a hybrid Green-winged X "Common" was there Feb. 4 (JM). Another "Common" was found at Sunnyvale Sewage Feb. 16 (PJM). The pair of Tufted Ducks was still to be found at Old Sutro Baths through the period (mob). The Bolinas Lagoon male Harlequin Duck was still being seen to March 21 (mob), and four Harlequin Ducks, seen around Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach, remained at least through Feb. 11 (DR). The latest lingering Oldsquaw (besides the Not So Oldsquaws) was at Princeton Harbor through the period (mob). Seven Bald Eagles, mostly adult birds, were reported during the period. At least four of these were along the coast where they are considered rare: one immature over San Francisco Bay Feb. 4 (KH), one at Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co. Feb. 2-10 (DR), one at Abbott's Lagoon Feb. 16 (KSW), and the SE Farallon bird (see paragraph two) Feb. 2-15. A Broad-winged Hawk

near Strybing Arboretum was last seen Feb. 11 (ASH). Swainson's Hawks made their move early this year. One was noted from Harkness Slough Road, Santa Cruz Co., Jan. 31 (JMS, AWi). Another early Swainson's was seen from Eight Mile Road, San Joaquin Co., Feb. 4, three days earlier than last year's record (DGY). A **Yellow Rail** was found at Remillard Park, Larkspur Feb. 16 (MLR). Eight Lesser Golden-Plovers lingered at Spaletta Plateau through the period (EDG, DSg, DWm, BHo), and singles were found at Half Moon Bay Feb. 5 (RSTh), and Pebble Beach, Monterey Co., Feb. 11 (DR). Mountain Plover were noted in the Central Valley in traditional locations. The largest group reported was sixty along Sandy Mush Road, Merced Co. Feb. 25 (BLaB). Closer to the Bay Area, two were found off Clifton Court Road, Contra Costa Co., Feb. 2-7 (RJR, JMR). The Rock Sandpiper at Princeton Harbor through the period was joined by a second bird March 19 (RKO).

Uncommon in the spring was a Parasitic Jaeger spotted from Pigeon Pt. March 26 (RSTh). An immature Franklin's Gull was found at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Feb. 7 (JMR, AWi) and remained at least through March 20 (mob, EDG). The adult Little Gull in San Joaquin Co. continued to commute between the pond along the north side of Hwy. 12 and the Stockton Sewage Ponds through Feb. 28, reported only at the latter location through March 20 (mob, EDG). Eight to nine Glaucous Gulls from our area was a high number. The expected plumage here in winter is first winter. Plumage was noted in only four of these birds, all immature or first winter. Three were well inland, one near Staten Island Road, San Joaquin Co. Feb. 4 (DGY), one north of Livermore Feb.

5 (RJR), and another at the Merced National Wildlife Refuge Feb. 25 (BLaB). Numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes passed along our coast throughout the period. PRBO recorded big flights in the thousands passing March 8 and March 22-24. The first Caspian Tern was noted at Moss Landing Harbor Feb. 4 (DES). A **Thick-billed Murre** was spotted 30 miles off of Half Moon Bay Feb. 2 (BS, fide RSTh, PJM).

### Landbirds

A Long-eared Owl was found along the lower end of the Tennessee Valley Trail Feb. 25 (MLR). Two Short-eared Owls were seen in the Empire Tract along Eight Mile Road Feb. 4 (DGY). In a less expected location was one at the Toll Plaza March 2 (JM). Costa's Hummingbirds were right on time in Del Puerto Canyon road March 15 (ASH).

Winter wandering Lewis' Woodpeckers in unusual locations were noted as follows: one to three along Chileno Valley Road Feb. 5-March 18 (BHo, DN), and one to two along Pleasants Valley Road, Solano Co., Feb. 21-March 17 (KGH, MBG). Six to eight Lewis' at Sunol March 26 (MLa) were in a known breeding location. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was along Gates Canyon Road, Solano Co., Feb. 18-21 (DEQ, KGH).

A Sage Thrasher visited at the Los Banos Wildlife Management Area Feb. 25 (BLaB), and the Bendire's Thrasher remained at Jahant Road near Lodi at least through Feb. 27 (DGY, mob, AWi). The Northern Shrike at Los Banos WMA was last reported Feb. 25 (BLaB). An immature Northern Shrike found northwest of Davis Jan. 31 was last noted Feb. 26 (BMx, mob, KGH).

Returning Warbling Vireos reached Marin Co. in mid-march (MLR). The Tennessee Warbler in Golden Gate



Park continued to be seen at least to March 20 (ASH, mob, TSc). The Nashville Warbler in Pescadero was last reported Feb. 5 (RSTh), and another Nashville was found at a San Francisco residence Feb. 24 (CSp). A Black-throated Gray Warbler graced the Japanese Garden at Lake Merritt from Feb. 25 through March 5 (PEG, ABe, BWk). A Hermit Warbler was at the Presidio Feb. 15–17 (SMo, MLR). A male **Prairie Warbler** visited the trees in front of the Brown Bag Stationery Store, San Francisco March 12 (JMcC), but could not be found later. A Palm Warbler remained at SE Farallon through the period. The Black-and-white Warbler at the Carmel River mouth was last reported Feb. 11 (DR), and one at North Lake in Golden Gate Park continued to be seen through the period (mob). At least five American Redstarts continued to winter coastally into March in San Francisco and San Mateo Cos. (mob). The Wilson's Warbler found in Golden Gate Park in early January was last reported March 22 (mob). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, found at a Berkeley residence Feb. 5 (MRC), continued to be seen in the vicinity through the period (mob). At last report it was beginning its molt into breeding plumage (MRC).

A Fox Sparrow, eastern form, hung out near Duarte's Tavern in the town of Pescadero Feb. 4–20 (AKr, RM). Three Swamp Sparrows and four White-throated Sparrows continued to be found in coastal locations through the period. The Harris' Sparrow near Pier 98 landfill in San Francisco remained at least through March 20 (ASH, TSc). San Francisco's pair of Great-tailed Grackles continued to be seen. The first Great-tailed Grackle appeared in San Francisco in 1978, and nesting took place in the spring of 1980. Forty to

fifty Evening Grosbeaks were near Guerneville March 12 (BDP).

**Observers:** Albione Becnel (ABe), Dix Boring, Herb Brandt, Harrison Carr, Josiah Clark, Terry Colburn, Jack Cole, Tom Condit, Scott Cox, Marian R. Craig, Joe Eaton, Al M. Eisner, Michael E. Ezekiel, Alex Gaugine, Brad Goodhart, Philip E. Gordon, Edward D. Greaves, Helen Green, Paul D. Green, Marguerite B. Gross, Keith Hansen, Ed Hase, Rob Hayden, Kevin G. Hintsa, Bob Hirt (BHi), Alice Hoch, Bob Hogan (BHo), Alan S. Hopkins, Al Indelicato, John Keene, Dan Kelly, Theodore H. Koundakjian, Richard Kovak (RKO), Andy Kratter (AKr), Bruce LaBar (BLaB), Michael Larkin (MLa), Kay H. Laughman, Bruce Maxwell (BMx), John McCormick (JMcC), Roy Messer, Peter J. Metropulos, Joseph Morlan, Scott Morrical (SMo), Marty Morrow, Daniel P. Murphy, Dan Nelson, John Osner, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (thanks to Peter Pyle), David E. Quady, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Ivan Samuels, Barry Saupe, Steve Schafer, Tim Schante (TSc), Donald E. Schmoldt, Dan Singer (DSg), Jean Marie Spoelman, Chris Spooner (CSp), Ron S. Thorn (RSTh), Teresa N. Turner, Bruce Walker (BWk), Anna Wilcox (AWi), Katherine S. Wilson, David Wimpfheimer (DWm), Dennis Wolff, Betty Wyatt, David G. Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288 or 524-5592.

—HELEN GREEN

Observations Editor  
2001 Yolo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707

## DID YOU SEE ANY OF THESE BIRDS?

The California Bird Records Committee is nearing the end of a four year project seeking out for review and permanent filing the details of all records for vagrants in California, no matter how old the record might be. From a starting point of having reviewed less than half of all published records, we are happy to announce that we now have reviewed or have under review documentation on 90% of all published records of rarities in the state. We have four different CBRC reports in various stages of the publication process and eventually anticipate a book summarizing all California records. At some point we will simply have to "statistically" reject, as inadequately documented, the remaining 10% which are still missing. Before we do that, though, we are making every effort to obtain details on these birds. Did you see any of the birds listed below? They all occurred in the greater Bay Area (Sonoma to Contra Costa to Santa Cruz). If so, please send details to me about your sighting, including a description of the circumstances and a description of the bird in question. Copies of your notes are best (or photos!), but if you can recall what the bird looked like, even those details may be very helpful. Please help us make this project as complete as possible.

—DON ROBERSON  
CBRC Secretary

282 Grove Acre Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950

### YELLOW-BILLED LOON

20 Oct 68 Bodega Bay SON

### EMPEROR GOOSE

26 Oct 47 Bay Bridge Toll Plaza ALA

18 Dec 48 Tomales Bay MRN

9 Jan—

19 Mar 56 Santa Cruz SCZ

13 Apr 60 Pescadero SM

19 Apr 64 Aptos SCZ

8 Feb 65 Woodland YOL

27—

31 Dec 67 Limantour MRM

15—

24 Dec 68 Limantour (2) MRM

### TUFTED DUCK

Feb 80 and returning

Feb. 81 Berkeley ALA

### CURLEW SANDPIPER

7 Sep 66 Rodeo Lagoon MRM

### BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

3 Sep 78 Salinas R. mouth MTY

### SNOWY OWL

22 Dec 73 Point Reyes MRM

2 Jan 74 San Francisco SF

### SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

18 Nov 55 Santa Cruz SCZ

24 Jun 56 El Cerrito CC

19, 20, 22, 25, and

29 Aug 67 Point Reyes

2 Jun 74 Bolinas MRN

7 Aug 80 Point Reyes MRM

6 Aug 83 Point Reyes MRM

### PHILADELPHIA VIREO

19— (North Lake)

20 Aug 80 Golden Gate Park SF

3 Oct 83 Point Reyes MRN

18 Sep 87 Point Reyes MRN

### PAINTED BUNTING

11 Mar 69 Oakland ALA

### SNOW BUNTING

9 Nov 69 Bodega Bay (2) SON

*The GULL* for Oct. 1967 reported a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at the RCA Station, Point Reyes Aug. 19, 20, 22, and 29th. It was photographed there on the 25th. Two GGAS birders saw it the first and second date, ten saw it the third date, four saw it the fifth date. Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Pride, since deceased, were among those who saw it and were the only persons named in our report. Were you one of these observers? Did you take the photos mentioned, or do you know who did?

## MONO LAKE FINE WINE DRAWING

May 19 is the date of the Mono Lake Committee's annual Fine Wine Drawing. If you did not receive a mailing from the committee phone for information: (213) 477-8229.



## CONSERVATION NOTES

### 101 CONGRESS PREVIEW

#### An Environmental Look:

Congress began organizing in late January at the tail end on one of the longest winter warm spells in Washington memory. Things promised to get a lot hotter by mid-spring, when some of the most significant environmental battles will be fought over the quality of the nation's air and the fate of some treasured wild places.

Two significant changes since last winter have conservationists hopes high. The inauguration of George Bush, who ran for election emphasizing his conservation credentials, is expected to ease the partisan rancor that has characterized environmental polictics for the past eight years. The replacement of Robert Byrd (D-W. Va.) by George Mitchell (D-Me.) as Senate Majority Leader means that, for the first time, a true conservation champion fills one of the most important leadership posts in Congress. Despite these important gains, the struggle to pass a strengthened Clean Air Act is expected to be long and difficult. The opposition of the utility and auto industries to meaningful emissions controls remains strong. John Dingell, the powerful chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, stands ready to support them. However, if activists can keep up the call for a renewed commitment on clean air, Congress is likely to produce a bill this year.

The effort to protect the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from ill-founded oil and gas development schemes continues. The conservation community, including Audubon, has taken the offensive. A year ago, many members of Congress assumed that the Arctic could not be successfully defended against the power of the oil

oil lobby, but our victory in preventing a floor action on development legislation in the 100th Congress has given new hope that the land of the porcine caribou and Arctic wolf can be saved.

Other conservation battles are looming, too. New bills have been introduced to begin addressing global warming. The campaign to save the last stands of magnificent ancient forests in the Pacific Northwest is gathering steam and will soon reach the halls of Congress. A concerted effort to halt the steady loss of American wetlands will begin, based on the National Wetlands Policy Forum, in which Audubon was a key participant.

Altogether, an interesting and exciting prospect, this 101st Congress. With the continued help of concerned activists from across the country, it could be the environmental Congress we have all been waiting for.

—BROOKS YEAGER

Vice-President for  
Governmental Relations

### FROM YOUR TOWN TO YOUR WORLD

Does the destruction of tropical forests disturb you? Do you wonder how increasing numbers of people will be able to feed themselves? The Foreign Assistance Action Project is a chance to come to grips with global issues and to participate in the foreign policy process. Information on population, environment, and agriculture and booklets on how you can make a difference working with the local media raising community awareness, holding town meetings, mounting a letter-writing campaign and visiting with decision makers are available from National Audubon Society, FAA Project, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 301, Washington, DC 20003.

## BACK YARD BIRDER

Whether we're aware or not, we use many clues to identify a bird. One characteristic behavior is the method of locomotion on foot. Is the bird a hopper or a walker?

What we see as a bird's leg is in reality its foot. If we were to use a human leg as a standard, we would find that most birds walk on their toes alone; a bird's leg is more like a foot and ankle combined; the bird's backward knee is really its heel; and most of the bird's leg is covered with feathers and is tucked up out of sight.

Who knows why some birds hop while others walk? Obviously legs and feet have become adapted for specific purposes. e.g. Herons and egrets have long legs for wading while feeding; ducks and other swimming birds have webbed or lobed feet and are most awkward while walking; aerial species such as hummingbirds and swifts have nearly non-existent feet, hence their order's name, *apodiformes*; shearwaters and petrels more or less crawl on their "ankles." Hawks and eagles, which kill their prey in the air have no real need to get around on foot. Conversely, gallinaceous birds (turkeys, grouse, quail, etc.) prefer walking and feed as they do so. They'd rather walk than fly! The Greater Roadrunner can reach speeds up to 15 mph, a necessity for catching swift rodents and reptiles.

In general, passerines (perching birds) are hoppers. Perhaps this is because they have relatively short legs and hopping is a more efficient, less energy-consuming manner of moving. it would also seem to be an easy way of moving among small obstructions while feeding.

And then there are the exceptions! Passerines which walk rather than hop include the Horned Lark, ravens, crows and magpies (jays both hop AND walk), pipits and wagtails, starlings,

cowbirds and blackbirds, meadowlarks, grackles and the Savannah Sparrow, The American Robin, ordinarily a hopper, will occasionally run. Warblers and swallows, which spend most of their time in the air, rarely walk *OR* hop!

Those birds which habitually walk also have a pronounced back and forth head-bobbing movement (think of the pigeons in Union Square). This allows the head to remain effectively in the same position while the bird is moving, allowing the bird to see food or predators at the same time as it is walking.

Now that you're thinking about it, I'll bet you'll realize how important hopping or walking techniques are in helping to identify a bird.

—MEG PAULETICH



PACIFIC SCREECH-OWL

## GGAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Don't forget the meeting on Owling in San Francisco May 11th.

## GGAS AWARDS PLAQUE

Last year the Conservation Committee agreed to create a plaque to remind us visually of our roster of Conservation Award winners. Thanks to Chris Puccinelli, proprietor of AWARDS BY CHRIS (1406 Valencia St., SF) we now have a stunning perpetual plaque honoring those recipients from 1979 to the present. We urge you to stop by and



become inspired by those folks and also view the fine work of Chris and her staff.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION (REQUIRED BY 39 USC 3685)

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S/ Barbara L. Rivenes, Business Manager  
Date: 3/15/89

GGAS FARALLON TRIP

The annual GGAS boat trip to circle the Farallon Islands is scheduled for Sunday, June 18. Past trips have produced excellent views of puffins,

auklets, shearwaters, albatrosses, whales, dolphins and other species of seabirds and marine mammals not commonly seen from land.

Reservations can be made by mailing \$28 per person with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to GGAS, 1250 Addison, #107-B, Berkeley, CA 94702. Make the check payable to GGAS.

Space for the trip is limited and will be filled on a first come, first served, basis. We will plan an early departure from the Emeryville marina.

LISTEN

Learn birding by ear at a two-day workshop Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21. Participants will be introduced to area bird songs and methods to learn the songs. The Saturday 1-4 p.m. session at the Oakland Museum will involve the study of the sounds with recordings, notes and slides, using the natural Sciences Gallery. The Sunday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. session is a field trip to practice skills learned on Saturday. The instructor will be Dave Cornman, long-time leader of field trips for GGAS. The cost of the workshop is \$20 for Oakland Museum Association members, (\$25 non members). Class size is limited to fifteen. Send your check to the Oakland Museum Science with a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

NATURE SOUND SOCIETY

The NSS of the Oakland Museum will hold its fifth annual sound recording workshop from June 9-11 (Friday to Sunday) at S. F. State University's Yuba Pass Field Station. Featured speakers include Luis Baptista and Marie Mans. Featured birds include the Black-backed Woodpecker and the Yellow-headed Blackbird. For information call 273-3884 or write Nature Sounds Society at Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak St., Oakland, CA 94607.

Participants will learn about equipment and technique from experts, have an opportunity to practice in habitat ranging from fir forest to marshland in the Sierra Valley. It is also an opportunity to meet professional and amateur sound recording enthusiasts. Reservations are limited.

## NOTECARDS, WETLANDS STYLE

We are very proud of our Wetlands Series of Notecards, and have mentioned this before. We have not shown you an adequate representation of this fine series, and here is the Peregrine Falcon. Come and see the cards at the GGAS office.

## SIERRA FIELD CAMPUS S.F. STATE UNIVERSITY

Again this spring SFSU is offering through its School of Science a series of courses, college credit optional, that are of interest to birders and conservationists:

**David Shuford** is giving *Birds of the Sierra* (June 12-16), **Luis Baptista** is giving *Function of Bird Song* (June 12-16), **Keith Hansen** is giving *Nature Illustration* (June 19-23) and there are offerings in photography, writing about nature, astronomy, etc. The person to call for information is Jim Steele at (415) 338-1571 or 759-0970.

The field station is located one mile above Basset's Station and six miles below Yuba Pass on Hwy. 49 in Sierra Co.





## CAMP FOR ADULTS?

The National Park Service at Point Reyes National Seashore together with Point Reyes Education Programs is offering a five-day Natural History Camp designed for adventuresome adults over 21.

A staff of naturalists will lead a variety of activities such as tidepooling, birding, mucky marshing, canoeing and tracking animals. Evenings will be filled with night hikes, campfire programs and Native American stories.

The location is the Point Reyes/Clem Miller Environmental Education Center, the dates are July 31 through August 4, 1989. The cost is \$290 and includes all instruction, field exploration, meals and accommodations. For a copy of the brochure call (415) 663-1200.

## PELAGIC TRIPS— SAN DIEGO

The Western Field Ornithologists will sponsor a half-day trip Saturday, May 20 exploring the ocean waters west of San Diego. From 5:30 a.m. (promptly) to 11:30 a.m., leaving from Seaforth Sportfishing Landing, 1717 Quivira Rd., Mission Bay. The New Seaforth is a large fishing boat with a galley where short orders including breakfast, snacks and beverages are sold.

Costs for members \$25, non-members \$35 (includes a one year membership and a subscription to Western Birds). Two non-members in a family \$60 (one subscription). Send your check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to WFO, c/o Ginger Johnson, 4637 Del Mar Ave., San Diego, CA 92107. Phone inquiries (619) 223-7985.

Trips are also scheduled Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9 and 10.

## “SAVE OUR WILD PLACES”

It is not news, but more details are now available. From a news release of the California Dept. of Fish and Game:

Leaders of sport hunting groups, environmental organizations and the Dept. of Fish and Game gathered with reporters for the release to the wild of a rehabilitated Red-tailed Hawk March 13th at Grizzly Island, Solano Co. this symbolized the “take-off” of the interpretive services phase of a new state wildlife-viewing program designed to support California wildlife habitat.

These services, including lectures, guided tours, nature walks, displays and photographic blinds will soon be available for fee-paying visitors to nine DFG wildlife sites as part of the California Wildlife Program. It encourages residents and tourists to take part in a low-cost wildlife viewing program, with proceeds dedicated to the support and maintenance of 400,000 acres of wildlife habitat managed by DFG. It is expected to generate about \$5 million in new support for wild life habitat.

The program is designed to attract animal-lovers, birders, hikers and wildlife photographers—outdoor recreationists who do not hunt—to any of nine participating DFG wildlife areas or ecological reserves. For a \$10 annual pass good at any site, or a \$2 per person per day fee payable at the sites, visitors can watch, enjoy and photograph such wildlife as tule elk, deer, river otter, Bald Eagles, pelicans or flocks of waterfowl in natural settings. Also offered for sale is a \$7.50 non-game Native Species Stamp, this year featuring a Peregrine Falcon in the wild.

By paying fees and buying stamps,

non-hunters and non-anglers for the first time will be able to contribute as "nonconsumptive" users to the support of DFG wildlife programs. Glenn Olsen, Regional Vice-president of Audubon is quoted as enthusiastically supporting the program and plans to work actively to encourage the public to buy wildlife passes and stamps. (Editor's Note: I must register a dissent. The growth of user's fees for things that should be free to all, and may exclude people on tight budgets, is not a sound social policy. It would be far sounder for Audubon to emphasize voluntary giving such as the sale of the stamp and more appropriate general revenue funding of wildlife and conservation programs.)

## NINE SITES

The nine sites at which the fee will be charged, and at which new services will be offered are:

**Grizzly Island Wildlife Area** (Solano County), a 14,000-acre marshland, about an hour's drive on I-80 from either San Francisco or Sacramento (take Highway 12 Rio Vista Exit to Grizzly Island Road). Wildlife: tule elk, river otter, rabbits, waterfowl. Among endangered species at this wildlife area are Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and the California Clapper Rail.

**Gray Lodge Wildlife Area** (Sutter and Butte counties), an 8,400-acre marshland, is about an hour and a half north of Sacramento via Highway 99. Gray Lodge is a favored wintering spot for migratory waterfowl. Among endangered species at this area are: Bald Eagle, Swainson's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Greater Sandhill Crane and Aleutian Canada Goose.

**Elkhorn Slough Reserve** (Monterey County), a 1,300-acre estuarine reserve

east of Moss Landing. Wildlife includes shorebirds and migratory waterfowl, sea otter and California Brown Pelican.

**Los Banos Wildlife Area** (Merced County), a 5,586-acre wildlife area, attracts many thousands of wintering waterfowl. Wildlife includes a wide variety of birds, as well as muskrat, raccoon and rabbit. Among endangered species at this site are Bald Eagle, Aleutian Canada Goose, Swainson's Hawk, Giant Garter Snake and Western Pond Turtle.

**San Jacinto Wildlife Area** (Riverside County), a 4,700-acre wildlife area with wetlands in view of the San Bernardino Mountains. Wildlife includes many ducks and geese, as well as owls, roadrunners and rabbits. Endangered species at this site include: Stephen's Kangaroo Rat, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and Swainson's Hawk.

**Ash Creek Wildlife Area** (Lassen County), a 12,800-acre area featuring sandhill cranes and pronghorn antelope.

**Lake Earl Wildlife Area** (Del Norte County), a 5,000-acre area five miles north of Crescent City. The area begins at the Pacific Ocean, embraces two lakes and ends in upland fields and forests. Wildlife includes waterfowl and raptors. Endangered species at this site include: Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, California Brown Pelicans and Aleutian Canada Geese.

**Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve** (Orange County), a 752-acre wetland, featuring a wide variety of ocean and shorebirds in an estuarine habitat, virtually surrounded by urban development. Endangered species here include California Brown Pelican, California Least Tern, Light-footed Clapper Rail and Peregrine Falcon.

**Imperial Wildlife Area, Wister Unite** (Imperial County), more than 5,000 acres of wildlife area, all located



200 feet or more below sea level. More than 400 species of wildlife are found at this site, despite very high summer temperatures. Wildlife includes many kinds of waterfowl, shorebirds, wintering geese. Endangered species here include the Yuma Clapper Rail, Peregrine Falcon and California Brown Pelican.

## JOB OPENING

The East Bay Regional Park has an opening: **WILD LIFE SPECIALIST**. A starting salary of \$35,456 and very good benefits are offered for a person with a BA in wild life management and three years of experience in northern California. Application must be made before June 2 and must be on EBRPD forms available from its Personnel Dept., (415) 531-9300 ext. 2600. Call that number for more information.



## RESTORING THE EARTH

### Attention Restorationists!

We at RTE would like to publicize your restoration effort by including it in our **San Francisco Bay Area Restoration Database and Directory**

The Database and Directory will include:

- Restoration work in all types of ecosystems.
- All organizations which are involved in whole or in part in restoration.

**For information on how to  
participate**

write or call **Jane Wilkin** at:  
**Restoring the Earth**

**1713 C Martin Luther King Jr. Way  
Berkeley, California 94709  
(415) 843-2928  
or leave a message at  
(415) 843-2645**

## NEWS FROM THE RANCH VISIT THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch is open to the public now. Pack your picnic lunch and visit us. The Ranch is located about 3 miles north of Stinson Beach on Hwy. 1. Plan to bird on Bolinas Lagoon before migration takes the rest of our ducks north for the summer. Have lunch in the Ranch yard, walk our half mile loop trail to the overlook and watch the Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets. The heronry should be quite active now, young herons will be in the nests and perhaps our first egret chicks will hatch before the end of the month.

Ranch biologists will prepare programs on 3 weekends in May and June. Ray Peterson will be with us on the weekend of May 6 and 7. John Petersen will be on hand June 3 and 4. John Kelly will be present on June 17 and 18. Each will enrich your visit with his own special program and interpretation of ACR and the heronry.

### ACR FIELD SEMINAR SCHEDULE

May 20-21, Saturday & Sunday: "In Focus; 35mm Photography" This 2-day photography workshop will be taught by Ray Peterson. (Volunteer Canyon, \$40 includes lodging.)

June 21, Wednesday: "Get to Know the Critters Night". Beef up your butterfly identification skills for our annual butterfly counts sponsored by the Xerces Society the following weekend. (Volunteer Canyon, \$3)

June 24 Marin Butterfly Count. (Volunteer Canyon, free)

June 25 Sonoma Butterfly Count (Volunteer Canyon, free) Annual Butterfly counts sponsored by the Xerces Society.

Call the Ranch for reservations or details weekdays 9-5; (415) 868-9244.

**BOUVERIE GUIDED NATURE WALKS**

Reservations are required for all walks by the Wednesday preceding the walk. (707) 938-4554.

April 8 & 22, May 6 & 20, Saturdays 9:30-1:30: Join a member of our BAP Docent Council on a walk through the lovely Bouverie Audubon Preserve. Wildflowers should be abundant, and the birding should be great. Take this opportunity to enjoy the Bouverie Preserve. (free)

**JOHN PETERSEN TO LEAD "NATURAL HISTORY JEWELS OF MALAYSIA" TRIP**

Bouverie biologist John Petersen will lead a natural history field trip to Malaysia between June 17 and July 8, 1989. John's background in ornithology, botany, field biology, tropical ecology, and his travels in Malaysia make him uniquely qualified to head this tour. The tropical rainforests in northern Borneo are the world's oldest, perhaps 100 million years. 8500 species of plants, 450 species of birds, 200

species of mammals, and 250 species of reptiles will make this a most rewarding experience. Of course this trip will help benefit ACR. it will be limited to 16 participants. For further information contact Barbara Hopper at Geostar Travel, 6050 Commerce Blvd., #C, Rohnert Park, CA 94928. (800) 624-6633 or (707) 584-9552.

**BOUVERIE OAK REFORESTATION**

Staff, docents, volunteers and visiting children began an oak reforestation program at Bouverie Audubon Preserve in December, 1988. Among the species restored to the Bouverie property were blue oak, coast live oak and valley oak, 121 in all. This is part of a plan sponsored and encouraged by our own David Bouverie, to restore the oak woodland habitat to its former grandeur on our property, and hopefully through example and encouragement elsewhere. David's plan is a simple one, individual land owners should take action and responsibility for reforesting lost oak woodlands on their own property. Perhaps those of us in urban areas could begin by writing letters to local park districts to increase the use of oaks in

**GIFTS and BEQUESTS**

**FOR GGAS**

**In Memory of**

Chuck Sapp

**FOR MONO LAKE**

**Gift of**

Terra, Roland, Catherine  
Chris and Valerie

Dorothee M. Haken, M.D.

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1250 Addison St., #107B, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.



## GGAS ELECTION

# B A L L O T

This ballot must be returned to the GGAS office not later than May 22 to be counted. You may vote for any or all of the candidates by placing an x in the box following the candidate's name.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.  
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Berkeley, California 94702

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THE GULL

#### GGAS ROSTER OF OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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Leora Feeney (522-8525)\* — 91  
David Rice (527-7210)\* — 90  
At Large: Steven Margolin (434-4262 x6005)\* — 90  
Arthur Feinstein (282-5937)\* — 89

##### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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Hospitality,  
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Rare Bird Alert 528-0288  
Rare Bird Alert (update) 524-5592  
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#### GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE AUDUBON CANYON RANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom White, ex officio  
Nicki Spillane

Dan Murphy  
Bruce Howard

#### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288 Update: 524-5592

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,  
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.